UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund

POPULATION

VOL.17 NO.11

NOVEMBER 1991

World AIDS Day 1991 — 1 December

Infection spreading faster than previously thought

BY CENTURY'S END, some 30 - 40 million men, women, and children will have become infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, according to the latest predictions of the World Health Organization (WHO). The cumulative total previously projected by WHO was 25 to 30 million.

"What these dry statistics mean in human terms is almost unimaginable for those who have not seen the pandemic at first hand," says Michael H. Merson, director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS.

Although the HIV infection rate appears to be slowing in some industrialized countries, the incidence of new infections is "increasing markedly" in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, WHO says.

By April 1991, at least 8 - 10 million adults worldwide had become infected with HIV, and one million children were born infected. By century's end, 25 - 30 million adults will have been infected, more than 90 per cent of them in developing countries. Some 8 - 10 million children will have been born with HIV, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Experts say looking at the number of HIV infections, not the number of AIDS cases, gives a realistic picture of the global pandemic. WHO explains: AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is the late stage of infection with HIV. "While most, if not all, HIV-infected persons are expected ultimately to develop AIDS, this takes an average of 10 years. The current number of AIDS cases thus reflects the HIV infections acquired a decade ago."

WHO estimates that about 1.5 million people, including half a million children, have developed AIDS since the beginning of the pandemic just over 10 years ago.

As of early 1991, about 70 per cent of all global HIV infections are estimated to have been spread by sexual intercourse between men and women. The spread of HIV from an infected mother to her foetus or newborn baby occurs in approximately one-third of all pregnancies, according to WHO.

The condom, or male barrier contraceptive, has an advantage over female contraceptive methods of preventing the transmission of sexual diseases, including AIDS. Yet only 6 per cent of contraceptive users choose condoms, according to UNFPA's 1991 State of World Population report.

UNFPA's role

In the absence of a cure for AIDS, education is the first line of defense against the spread of HIV and AIDS, experts say. "We have learned that people can change their behaviour if they understand that their very survival is at stake," Dr. Merson says. "Prevention campaigns can work if they receive top priority and full commitment from government leaders at the highest level."

UNFPA addresses AIDS-related problems mainly through public information activities and education. For example, AIDS features in Fund-assisted population education and teacher training curricula in most Caribbean countries and in Congo, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Trinidad and Tobago.

An increasing number of countries are approaching UNFPA for a regular and large supply of condoms to prevent the further spread of AIDS, not only for contraceptive uses, according to a recent statement by the Fund's Technical and Evaluation Division. These countries include Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Liberia, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

AIDS kills by undermining the body's immunity to even mundane infections. □

WHO/J.Hernandez-Claire

There is no cure for AIDS, but there is education. Street children in Mexico City listen to a former prostitute who has tested HIV-positive.

"Wait and see" in aftermath of Haiti coup

THE MILITARY COUP that overthrew the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September is pressing a reassessment of UNFPA's programme of assistance to the Caribbean country.

The Fund's office in the capital, Port au Prince, was closed and international staff were evacuated by charter flight to Jamaica on 29 October. The move falls under emergency plans enacted by United Nations agencies in the country. Local staff have been advised not to travel to the office until further notice.

Earlier last month, Country Director Sylvère Looky told *Population* in New York: "As long as the socio-political situation has not normalized, we will face the difficulty of trying to plan project activities on which we might not be able to follow through. So we have to wait and see."

Programme activities have been suspended. These include supplying condoms to prevent the further spread of AIDS, and contraceptives to raise the rate at which Haitian couples practise modern contraception from a 1987 estimate of 5.5 per cent, according to programme documents.

At stake is reproductive health in a country of 6.5 million people where, during 1980-88, 230 women died of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth for every 100,000 live births, according to United Nations estimates. Haitian women bear an average of 4.8 children during their reproductive years, compared to the Latin American average of 3.2 children, the UN estimates. But the total fertility rate could be as high as 6.5, according to a 1989 UNFPA Programme Review and Strategy Development report.

In 1990, there were 9.7 reported AIDS cases for every 100,000 people in Haiti—up from 7.0 the previous year, the latest World Health Organization (WHO) statistics show. WHO describes these figures as "conservative" because they are based solely on officially reported cases, and because data for 1990 are incomplete.

The country's needs are pressing, said Looky. When the dust settles, "we will be morally obliged to try to expand some of our operations, such as maternal and child health and family planning."

Before the evacuation, maternal health and family planning, including contraceptive supply operations, took up nearly half of UNFPA's annual budget in Haiti, he said. In the future, funds may have to be reallocated from stymied projects to try to meet Haiti's health and family planning needs, he added.

In the meanwhile, a national population policy drafted with UNFPA assistance was awaiting parliamentary approval when the coup took place, he said, adding: "We will have to enter into fresh discussions with the next government before laws can be passed."

Also on hold are the national census slated for next year, a population education project for youths in and out of school, and discussions aimed at creating a national women's organization.

UNFPA began to provide assistance to Haiti in 1972. The Fund set up its office in Port au Prince in August 1990 to administer its first comprehensive country programme, for the period 1990-94. Looky took up his duties as country director in the same month. □

WHO/E.Hooper

A grieving father carries the body of his son, dead from AIDS, for burial.

Aging: An emerging challenge

"THE AGING OF the world's population is one of the most important demographic phenomena of our time," says United Nations Secretary-General Javier Peréz de Cuéllar.

The world's elderly population—defined as persons 60 years and older—is growing rapidly, in developing countries as well as in the industrialized countries commonly characterized as "graying." By the year 2025, seven in ten older persons will come from developing countries, the UN predicts. These countries are faced with a quandary: How to take care of their elders and invest in economic development with limited resources.

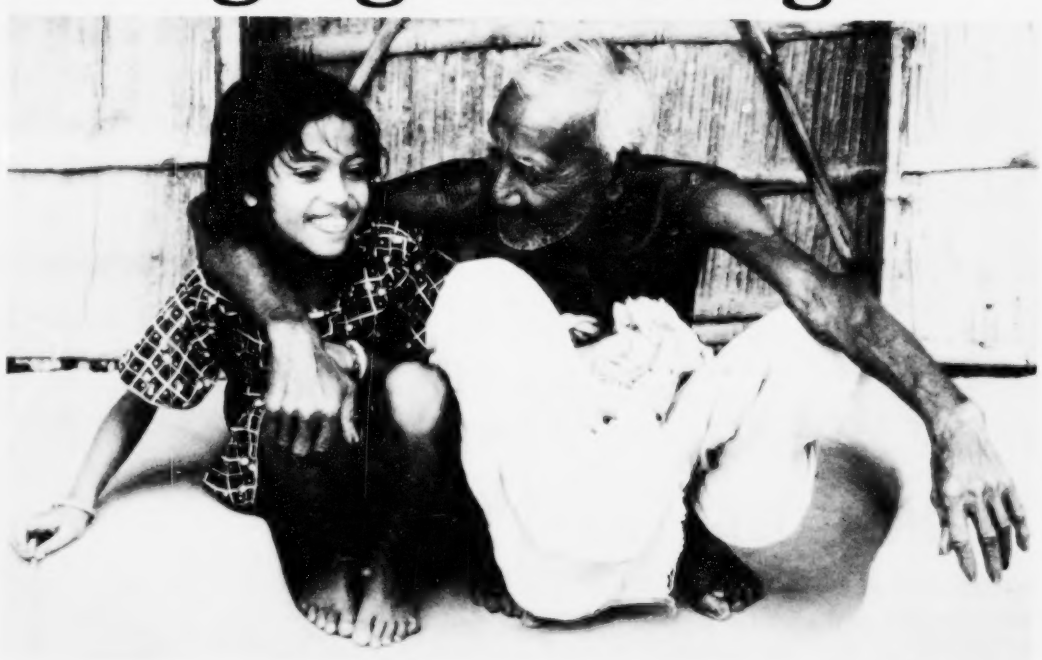
The needs of the elderly range from continued employment for those sometimes referred to as the "younger older," to health care for the chronic ailments that come during "old old age."

The South will have to accommodate the growing numbers of its elderly far more quickly than the North did in the past, says William Seltzer, chief of the UN Statistical Office.

Seltzer was among the participants at a 1 October UNFPA-organized symposium on population aging held to mark the first International Day for the Elderly.

"If all the world's elderly were considered as a single nation, that nation would be the world's third most populous, coming immediately after China and India," says David Horlacher, chief of the UN Population Division's Population and Development Section. "In 1990, there were 487 million persons aged 60 or over, accounting for approximately 9 per cent of the world's population. Over the next 10 years this figure should increase to 10 per cent."

However, says Horlacher, the age structures of sub-Saharan African countries are getting younger. "Population aging is unlikely to be a significant problem for them before 2020. Age structures in a majority of countries in Latin America and Asia became younger in the 1950s and 1960s, but the trend was reversed around 1970 when substantial fertility decline started."



UN/John Isaac

An old man in Bangladesh finds pleasure in the company of a youngster.

"The proportions of elderly are not changing markedly, but their sheer numbers are increasing rapidly" in the developing countries, says Seltzer. "At the same time, changes in social and cultural patterns, such as the flight of young people to towns and the spread of the nuclear family, mean that the traditional resources to care for the elderly are being undermined."

Elderly persons make up some 12 per cent of the population of industrialized countries; 4.5 per cent in developing countries. By 2025, according to UN projections, the proportions will be 19 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.

Although the world's population is almost equally divided between women and men, there are only 79 elderly men to every 100 elderly women, says Horlacher.

"In all regions bar South Asia, women live longer than men," says Catherine Pierce, chief of UNFPA's Special Unit on Women, Population, and Development. In consequence, "a higher proportion of elderly women are alone than are men."

"In developing countries, women's general health is much worse than men's. Health and nutritional deficiencies throughout life mean that women enter old age more unhealthy than men," says Pierce.

She adds that "the culture of poverty follows women even in industrialized countries," where, for example, widows are entitled to only a portion of their husbands' pensions.

Although old age dependency ratios are expected to increase, falling youth dependency ratios will more than offset this trend. "Hence the developing countries can expect a fall in the total dependency ratio between now and the year 2000," says Horlacher. But total dependency ratios—the ratio of dependents to producers in a given economy—are projected to rise in industrialized countries, where the expected rise in old age dependency is more than double the expected fall in youth dependency.

"Don't lose the family."

The key policy question in industrialized and developing countries alike, says Tarek Shuman, is: "Who is going to pay the bill?" Shuman is director of the international programme of the centre for aging at San Diego State University in California.

"The younger generation is paying for the elderly, no matter how you look at it" Shuman told *Population* during a recent visit to New York.

Whereas the economic costs of aging fall on the young, says Shuman, the social burden is borne by the elderly themselves, most commonly in the form of isolation and immobility.

"Industrialized countries are discovering that the best place for the elderly is their own home, rather than some institution," he says. "This is the traditional model in many developing countries, where the family is central to the culture and traditions."

But in the absence of cultural norms that keep three, sometimes four generations under one roof, there are legal measures: Shuman cites examples in the United States, where courts are mandating family alternatives to institutionalization. Applications for certain state old-age benefits are investigated to ensure that the elderly person in question has no next-of-kin in a position to provide care, he says.

Family care, Shuman argues, is more cost-effective and more likely to enhance the lives of the elderly than institutionalization.

"Developing countries should think twice before investing in institutions," says Shuman. "This is where the UN comes in. It should emphasize an important message: 'Don't lose the family'." □

Violence against women

An international treaty?

THE UNITED NATIONS will convene an expert group on violence against women this month in Geneva. Participants drawn from all regions of the world are expected to study the possibility of formulating an international human rights instrument on violence against women in all its forms, including sexual harassment and economic coercion.

The meeting, slated for 11-15 November, is being organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women. It follows an Economic and Social Council resolution and calls by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, for measures to be taken to protect women against violence in everyday life—within the family, at the workplace, or in any other area of social life.

Violence against women is viewed by officials as a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Women—equality, development, and peace—and to the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women adopted in 1985. However, it is not explicitly addressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted in 1979.

The expert group's proposals may appear as revisions to the Convention, an optional protocol to the Convention, or an entirely new treaty, according to the UN Information Service.

An international campaign

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN violates human rights. This is the basic message of "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence," an international campaign co-ordinated by participants in last June's Women's Leadership Institute, a project of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Douglass College in New Jersey.

The campaign is slated to begin on 25 November.

As Charlotte Bunch, the centre's director, puts it: "Sexual violence is the most common violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights call for the right to life, liberty, and security of person free from cruel and degrading treatment. Society cannot end racial and national violence as long as we accept this abuse in the home."

Violence against women includes rape, battery, homicide, sexual harassment and terrorism, incest, pornography, compulsory heterosexuality, forced prostitution, sex tourism, sexual torture, state violence, and the disproportionate impoverishment of women, Bunch says.

She adds: "Where women are denied reproductive freedom, they suffer the violence of enforced pregnancy, compulsory sterilization, botched abortions, and increased maternal mortality."

For more information, including a calendar of international events, contact: Niamh Reilly, Campaign Co-ordinator, Center for Women's Global Leadership, 27 Clinton Avenue, Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, USA. Telephone: (908) 932-8782. Fax: (908) 932-1180. □

Nepal sets up population committee

A NATIONAL POPULATION Committee was established in Nepal last month, UNFPA Country Director Omer Ertur reports from Kathmandu.

The Committee is tasked with formulating a national population policy that cuts across the country's social, economic, and administrative sectors, as well as co-ordinating and monitoring the country's population programme.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala chairs the Committee. Members include the ministers for communications, local development, health, and finance; the vice chair of the National Planning Commission; the chair of the Population and Social Committee of the House of Representatives; and the chief of the population division of the National Planning Commission, according to the local press. Koirala, who took office on 29 May, also chairs the National Planning Commission.

"Even without any increase in population, Nepal is far behind in fulfilling the needs of its people," an editorial in the *Rising Nepal* stated. "The past population commissions did not lack power. Population bodies at the political level are necessary, but not sufficient conditions. The only force that can neutralize, or even pull backwards, the highest of economic growth rates is the population growth rate. This has to be realized by the thoughts, actions, and deeds of the National Population Committee [of] Nepal."

The Himalayan country's total fertility rate is estimated by the United Nations at 5.5 children per woman aged 15-49. June's UNFPA-supported national census counted some 19.5 million Nepalis. □

Senegal claims programme for its own

THERE IS "NEW VIGOUR" in Senegal's family planning programme, which had been "dormant for years," according to UNFPA Country Director Wilma Goppel.

Why?

"Because the government is Senegalizing the programme," Goppel told *Population* last month. That is, the government is reorienting the family planning programme to meet the country's needs through locally-adapted strategies and activities. This is a break from the past, when the programme was "donor-driven and sometimes insensitive," Goppel said.

The government adopted a national population policy in April 1988. Last March, following revisions of fiscal and social legislation, it adopted a "Priority Action and Investment Programme for Population." The Programme incorporates the national family planning programme as well as a national programme to combat maternal mortality. Observers say its adoption made Senegal the first African country to operationalize its population policy with a national programme, which was forged with UNFPA assistance.

All this, says Goppel, demonstrates that "the government is carrying the flag" of family planning. She also attributes the new vigour to Senegal's year-old experiment in multi-party government: "Since the opposition is part of the government, the system has brought stability. This also removes suspicion of government family planning activities."

The government is set to present its comprehensive population programme to the international donor community this month in the capital of Dakar, at a donors' conference on population and health. The conference is believed to be the first of its kind in Africa.

In the meanwhile, UNFPA is preparing to launch its 1992-96 programme of assistance to Senegal. Under its third programme in the Sahelian country, the Fund will assist the government in trying to slow population growth, which accelerated from 2.4 per cent per year before 1976 to 2.7 per cent per year by 1988, according to census findings; improve the health of mothers and children; improve women's status and living conditions; and strengthen the government's capability to monitor, co-ordinate, and evaluate its national population programme.

The programme commits US$ 9 million from UNFPA's regular resources; if UNFPA's funding situation permits, another US$ 3 million may come from the Fund itself or through other sources, including multi-bilateral donors, according to programme documents, which list the following specific targets:

- increasing the rate at which couples practise modern contraception from 4 per cent to 12 per cent by 1996;
- reducing the birth rate from 47 per thousand people to 43 per thousand, by reducing the total fertility rate from 6.6 children to 5.9 children, and increasing the age at which women have their first baby from the 1986-estimated average of 19 years;
- reducing the rate at which women die of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, from 750 per 100,000 live births, to 500;
- reducing the rate at which infants die before their first birthday from 91 per 1,000 live births to 60; and
- increasing the average life expectancy from 49 years to 57 years.

UNFPA

Family planning counselling in Senegal.

As well as setting out to improve the availability and quality of family planning services, the new programme places new emphasis on two programme sectors, Goppel says: information, education and communication (IEC), and women, population and development.

As regards IEC, she says the first step to be taken is to co-ordinate the work of the various donor, government, and non-governmental organizations, since "people at the community level may be confused by mixed signals." Hence, she says, UNFPA will help the government to strengthen its IEC unit to develop, co-ordinate, and monitor IEC strategies and activities.

Another key element is interpersonal contact. "We know the media are good for creating awareness. But to create a change in behaviour, you need face-to-face contact," Goppel says. "After all, what happens in a dispensary has a bearing on what's being said on the radio, and vice versa."

In the area of women, population and development, UNFPA will support research on the relationship between women's reproductive health and their general living conditions, as a basis for a new national strategy for factoring women into development plans and projects. UNFPA will also provide technical support to the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs, according to programme documents. □

Call to meet youth's needs

YOUNG PEOPLE have been neglected in the delivery of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) services, information, and education, according to experts at a recent UNFPA Consultation on Youth, Population, and Development. In particular, the needs of unmarried youths are overlooked in service-delivery strategies.

Twenty-one experts connected with youth and population issues met at UNFPA headquarters in New York on 10-11 October for the Consultation, which was organized by the Education, Communication and Youth Branch of UNFPA's Technical and Evaluation Division (TED). The experts came from United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions.

UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik emphasized the need to provide life options to young women. Early childbearing endangers the health of mother and child and often impairs their quality of life and chances for achievement thereafter, Dr. Sadik said.

TED Director Jyoti Singh urged participants to advise UNFPA on what works, what does not work, and how activities for and involving youth can be strengthened.

An important first step, participants said, is to heighten awareness among policy makers of the critical needs of youth.

Although an increasing number of governments are adopting policies on youth, many still have not, participants noted. Where policies exist, they are seldom given high budgetary priority. And when it comes to reproductive health, policies and procedures often restrict access to contraceptives and other family planning services for young people, particularly those who are not married.

When young people are able to find services, these are not always suited to their special needs, such as counselling and confidentiality. It is therefore important that service planners and providers be helped in understanding, and gearing services to, youth's needs, participants said.

Participants made recommendations for action UNFPA can take. These included:

- actively encouraging governments to adopt policies on and allocate resources for young people's reproductive health and young women's advancement;
- organizing meetings that bring together young people, policy makers, researchers, and people concerned with youth programming and issues, to see how they can best co-operate;
- incorporating youth issues when formulating each country programme of assistance, by ensuring that a member of every Programme Review and Strategy Development mission looks into youth concerns;
- bridging the gap between researchers and programmers by, for example, including in UNFPA projects a research element jointly designed by researchers, programmers, and evaluators, to increase the usefulness of research findings;
- fostering greater collaboration among youth and youth-serving NGOs, and between these groups and UN and governmental organizations; and
- giving adequate attention to youth concerns in preparing for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

In addition to the questions of early childbearing and reproductive health, the migration of young people from rural to urban areas requires attention, participants said. Most migrants from the countryside are young people attracted by the bright lights of the big city, where they usually find themselves caught in abject poverty in alien, overcrowded surroundings, and where they become statistics in the growing crisis of urbanization in developing countries. Such young people need to be provided services, participants said. But, they added, information campaigns should also strive to correct the mistaken allure of the city while broader development policies seek to treat the rural poverty that makes young people uproot themselves. □

For more information, contact: Education, Communication and Youth Branch, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, 220 East 42 Street, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 297-5236.

Survival of the fittest?

A POPULATION EXPLOSION of humans is threatening the fragile ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands, perhaps best known for their role in prompting Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

The human population, mostly made up of settlers from the mainland and concentrated in three of the 13 islands of the Ecuadorian archipelago, doubled from 4,500 inhabitants in 1980 to 9,500 in 1990, according to official data.

"We must find a way to control migration" to the islands, says Jorge Anhalzer, who heads the recently created Permanent Commission for the Galapagos Islands and the Ecuadorian tourism corporation, CETUR. But he rules out the possibility of imposing limitations on the number of tourists who visit each year.

By official figures, tourism increased from 25,000 visitors in 1982 to 45,000 in 1990.

Rather, Anhalzer pins the blame for environmental strain on human settlers, who brought with them goats, pigs, donkeys, dogs, and other enemies of animals unique to the islands, including land iguanas, cormorants, and the Galapagos, or giant turtles.

The human population explosion has also depleted resources such as drinking water, according to a recently completed plan for tourism and ecological preservation in the islands.

The plan, commissioned by President Rodrigo Borja last year, warns against the unregulated expansion of tourism. It recommends distributing the islands' tourists in zones set up to prevent the unruly growth of resorts.

Some 97 per cent of the islands' territory have been designated a protected national reserve since 1959. (*IPS*) □

READEX FICHE

NEWS IN BRIEF

BELGIUM
Erik Derycke has been named Belgium's Minister for Development Co-operation, effective 29 September 1991. Derycke was formerly Secretary of State for Scientific Policy, a post he assumed in 1990. He replaces André Geens, who held the post since May 1988.

COURSE
The Indonesian National Family Planning Co-ordinating Board (BKKBN) is to hold a two-week training course for family planning programmers. "Planning and Managing a National Family Planning Programme: The Indonesian Experience," is scheduled for 4-17 December. The course is designed to provide an overview of the Indonesian family planning programme, and covers: the history and philosophy of the programme; management, planning, and co-ordination systems; information, education, and communication programmes; community participation; integration with health activities and other development programmes; and recent efforts towards increased privatization of family planning services. Much of the course will be conducted in sub-district and village field sites. Organizers say this direct access to a functioning "field laboratory" in which participants have an opportunity for dialogue with family planning staff, other government and non-government officials, and villagers distinguishes this course from many other similar ones. Participants will be expected to develop action plans relating their experiences in Indonesia to the situation and needs of their own countries. For more information, contact: Programme Co-ordinator, International Training Programme, BKKBN, Jl. M.T. Haryono, P.O. Box 1186, Jakarta 10011, Indonesia. Telephone: 62-21-819-1308, ext.191 or 254. Fax: 62-21-819-4532. Telex: 48181 BKKBN IA.

MANAGING
The Harvard School of Public Health will be offering a course on "Managing Health Programmes in Developing Countries" in Boston on 22 June-14 August 1992. The course is designed for managers and health professionals in government as well as non-governmental organizations, including hospitals, health centres, and public health programmes at the national, provincial, and district levels. The curriculum will focus on the development of practical managerial skills. For more information, contact: Anne Mathew, Office of Continuing Education, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA. Telephone: (617) 432-1171. Fax: (617) 432-1969.

RELOCATION
The Population Research Unit of the Department of Social Affairs of the League of Arab States has moved. Its new address is: Population Research Unit (PRU), 22 A Taha Hossein Street, 3rd floor, 11211 Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt. Telephone: (202) 3404306. Fax: (202) 740331.

PUBLICATIONS

Argentina: *Economic and Social Aspects of Population Aging in Argentina* sets out to describe the demographic processes that have brought about changes in the age structure of Argentina's population, and to provide planners with a better understanding of the social and economic consequences of such changes. Prepared with support from UNFPA, the report is available from: Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-3186.

Children: Its mother's education is one of the critical determinants of a child's risk of dying; the better educated the mother, the greater the child's chances of surviving into adolescence. This, according to studies in Costa Rica, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Paraguay, and Thailand. The studies appear in one volume, *Child Mortality in Developing Countries: Socio-Economic Differentials, Trends and Implications*, published by the United Nations Population Division with support from UNFPA. Available from: Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-3186.

Diskettes: The United Nations Population Division's World Contraceptive Use Diskettes present statistics on knowledge and use of contraception and sources of family planning services. The 5.25-inch, 360Kb diskettes are formatted for use with IBM-compatible personal computers. The data are supplied in ASCII format and can be imported into most spreadsheet programs, as well as other commercially available software packages. For more information, contact: Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-3186.

Gender: *Gender and population in the adjustment of African economies: Planning for change* aims to help national and international policy makers, in Africa and elsewhere, take gender issues systematically into account when planning structural economic change. Author Ingrid Palmer contends that, without a gender frame in development and population policy analysis, resource misallocation will persist and could even impair the chances of achieving sustainable growth in Africa. "If the gender bias, the weakest link in sub-Saharan economies, is not resolved, these economies may have an absolute advantage in no product and a comparative advantage only in lines of production based on the super-exploitation of women and a demand for children's assistance," she argues. Prepared with UNFPA support; published by the International Labour Office (ILO). Available from bookstores or ILO local offices, or direct from: ILO Publications, International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.

Reports: The Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) report series published by UNFPA's Technical and Evaluation Division has three new volumes: India, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. The reports present the findings and recommendations of the latest PRSD mission to each country. The Fund undertakes PRSDs in collaboration with the government concerned, to develop a comprehensive framework for a national population programme. The PRSD analyses the current status and needs, assesses the achievements of past population activities, and recommends future action. Priced at US$ 15.00 each. Available from: Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 297-5215.

Jamaica: *Report of The National Workshop on the National Population Policy: A Reassessment* presents the proceedings of the 5-6 December 1990 workshop held in New Kingston, Jamaica. Topics covered during the workshop include internal migration, housing needs, gender and development, the environmental impact of population pressures, the needs of children and youth, and aging. The report was compiled by the Technical Secretariat of the Population Policy Co-ordinating Committee of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, P.O. Box 634, Kingston, Jamaica.

Quito: The proceedings of the Second Regional Conference on Poverty, held in Quito, Ecuador in November 1990 have been published in English and Spanish, in one volume. *Towards Development Without Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean* was published in June by the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Project for Overcoming Poverty. It includes the "Quito Declaration" issued by the 1990 conference. For more information, contact: Julio Boltvinik, Director, Regional Project for Overcoming Poverty, United Nations Development Programme, Cra. 11A No. 94-25, Apartado Aereo No. 091369, Bogota, D.E., Colombia.

Thailand: *Integrating Development and Population Planning in Thailand* is one of four country case studies on progress made in integrating population variables in the development plans of developing countries. Its sources include published and unpublished government documents, research papers and monographs, and interviews with Thai development planners and policy makers. Written by Thai experts from Thailand's National Institute of Development Administration, National Economic and Social Development Board, and Thammasat University, the report was published by the United Nations Population Division with assistance from UNFPA. Available from: Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-3186. □

Men ask to join women's bank

POOR WOMEN IN Sri Lanka have put up the capital for, set up, and now run, their own bank. The Jamasakhti ("people's strength") Bank is patterned after Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, and offers an alternative to state and commercial banks and village moneylenders whose interest rates are beyond poor people's reach.

To establish the bank, women formed local associations in their villages, and then banded together in the Women's Development Federation. The Federation set up the bank, and supervises its 20 branches. Membership is limited to poor women who receive state food allowances.

By February, when the bank turned four months old, it had assets worth US$ 20,611, and had extended the equivalent of US$ 8,375 in loans.

One borrower, Samawathie, left her job breaking stones at a quarry and set herself up in the rope-making business. She bought three machines to clean the fibre from the outer husk of coconuts, used to make rope and matting, and trained 13 workers in order to fill contracts for rugs.

To ensure credit worthiness, women form groups of five; the team guarantees, and is held responsible for, an individual member's loan. So far, the arrangement has worked smoothly, and men are asking if they can at least open savings accounts. Many women express scepticism about letting the men in.

(Depthnews Women's) □

IUD's life extended

THE UNITED STATES Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved extension of the use of the Copper T 380A intra-uterine device (IUD) from six to eight years.

The extension was based on data from a World Health Organization study submitted to the FDA by the Population Council, a non-governmental organization which developed the device. Last year, the FDA approved extension of the duration of effectiveness of the Copper T 380A IUD from four to six years.

Since 1982, some 20 million of the copper-bearing IUDs have been distributed in more than 70 countries, according to the Population Council.

For more information, contact Sandra Waldman at the Population Council, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 644-1692. □

POPULATION Vol.17 No.11
Editor-in-Chief: Hirofumi Ando
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Population, the UNFPA monthly newsletter, may be obtained free of charge in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Fund. Short news items on population activities are cordially invited. These and notices of change of address should be sent to:

Information and External
Relations Division
United Nations Population Fund
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017 USA
91/17011/E/8200
ISSN 0048-4849

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER